



First time Legislative Candidate gets majority vote in Final Elections

Devan Miller
Menominee Nation News

In her first bout in the race for three open seats on the Menominee Tribal Legislature, High School Teacher, Regina Washinawatok received the highest number of votes in the primary elections, as well as in the final elections held last week, securing her a position on the Legislative body. The other two candidates who were successful in obtaining a seat are incumbent, Laurie Boivin and former Chairman, Joan Delabreau.

This year, every one of the candidates received additional votes in the final election, than in the primary election held in November 2005. Regina Washinawatok, who received majority vote in the primary elections with 650 votes, gained 203 additional votes in the final elections, making her the top vote getter for a second time with a total of 853 votes. Joan Delabreau followed with 706 votes to

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CMN marks its 13th year with Great Stride



M. Hawpetoss/MNN

College of Menominee Nation builds a new addition that reflects positive change. CMN Students will have more classroom space and lab space to coincide with an improvement of academic programs offered at CMN.

Marci Hawpetoss
Menominee Nation News

In Fall of 2005 the College of Menominee Nation renewed articulation agreements with University of Wisconsin- Green Bay and University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh. Articulation allows CMN stu-

dents who earn an associates degree to enroll into a bachelor's program at a select four year university.

CMN students who earn an associates degree in Business Administration, Education, or Human Services/Social Work may continue their education in

their field of study at the UW- Green Bay.

CMN students who earn an associates degree in Pre-Nursing may continue their Nursing education at UW-Eau Claire, UW-Oshkosh or at the Bellin College of Nursing.

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Allegations of Voter Fraud Raise Concerns about the Election Process

Marci Hawpetoss
Menominee Nation News

Menominee Tribal candidates, Laurie Reiter and Robert Webster, are facing an investigation and may be charged criminally by the Green Bay Police Department.

Reiter is seeking re-election to the Menominee Tribal Legislature and Webster is seeking election as Chief of Police.

The Menominee Tribe's Management Team received a complaint from Kathleen M. Peters on January 11, 2006 regarding potential voting irregularities concerning two Tribal candidates.

The Management Team determined that, "the nature of the complaint concerns potential voter irregularities that should be best handled by the Tribal Judiciary, Tribal

Prosecutor, and the Menominee Tribal Legislature."

In response to this, Legislators Stephanie Awonohopay and Karen Washinawatok requested an emergency meeting on Friday, January 13, 2006 to address allegations concerning potential voting irregularities.

Vice Chairperson AnnMarie Johnson held the emergency meeting to inform the public that the matter is being handled by the proper authorities. The emergency meeting was held that same evening.

Johnson, Attorney Rita Keshena and Chief Justice Robert Kittecon have been meeting on this matter all week. Johnson felt the Tribal membership needed a Status Report in

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light of the allegations being made public by the Green Bay Police Department. Tribal Chairman Michael Chapman recused himself from the matter. He did attend the meeting as a Tribal member and as a candidate for MTL elections. Legislators Kenneth Fish, Gary Besaw and Laurie Boivin felt this meeting was unconstitutional and it was a violation of Separation of Powers. "Every Tribal member is entitled to due process, we should not take action based on allegations," said Legislator Fish.

Legislator Boivin chose not to attend, "We have all taken an oath of office to uphold the Constitution and Bylaws, and this clearly violates that oath. I do not want to be counted as part of this quorum."

Legislator Besaw chose to stay for the meeting, stating, "This is a very tough issue, that is why I am attending this meeting."

In response, Johnson said "This meeting is informational only, and no action will be taken at this time." With that said all Legislators present agreed to continue with the informational meeting (absent Legislators were Reiter, Boivin and Chairman Chapman).

"We are not here to make accusations, this is a Status Report for Legislators and for the people," said Johnson.

Menominee Constitution Bylaws II- Procedure of the Tribal Legislature, Section 1- Meetings of the Tribal Legislature, Subsection B (3)- Emergencies states, "A special meeting of the Tribal Legislature may be called upon less than seventy-two (72) hours written notice if such a meeting is necessary for the preservation and protection of health, welfare, peace, safety or property of the Tribe."

Menominee Tribal Legislative Candidate Eugene Caldwell filed a complaint to the Election Commission asking for Candidate Decertification for those involved in these allegations of voter irregularities.

"Action needs to be taken to preserve the integrity, not only of our Constitution and Bylaws, but the good of our Tribe and Tribal Members. I feel the only appropriate action to be taken is to consider removing the candidates from the ballot," stated Caldwell.

Primary Candidate Rebecca Alegria also filed a complaint. "If the allegations prove to be true, I am requesting the candidates involved be decertified. Not only myself but other candidates who run a clean campaign may have been cheated out of a place in the Menominee election," said Alegria.

A Green Bay Police Report alleges that Webster intercepted Menominee Tribal member and Green Bay resident Kathleen Peters' absentee ballot from her mailbox without her consent.

It was also reported that Reiter and Webster drove away soon after Peters confronted Webster.

Peters reported that she identified the driver as Reiter and called her cell phone asking her to return her mail. Reiter returned the mail.

Peters also called the police department and reported the incident. Webster may face a charge of theft, and Reiter may face a charge of party to a crime.

Peters also reported that Reiter's sister came to her home and coerced Peters'

son to sign Peters' absentee ballot in support of Reiter.

Reiter advised law enforcement officials that "it is common practice to pick up ballots from voters who had signed the election form in support and also due to many ballots being sent in the mail without stamps."

Reiter also advised that she did not intend to steal Peters' mail and she returned it soon after Peters called her cell phone.

The emergency Legislative meeting allowed Tribal Legislators and Tribal members to comment on the situation and have input in the process as MTL, Tribal Justice Kittecon and Tribal Attorney Keshena determine what their next steps will be.

The safety of voters was an issue for community members who attended the emergency meeting. One candidate said, "How do I know my supporters will not be afraid to vote for me?"

Another community member stated, "The safety of Tribal members should be the first priority in this matter."

Other concerns regarded the friendship of Justice Kittecon and Reiter's husband. Johnson asked Justice Kittecon to recuse himself due to this friendship, however Justice Kittecon declined.

Justice Kittecon, Vice Chairperson Johnson and Attorney Keshena will continue to meet on this matter.

This article was written on January 18, 2006 which is prior to the Menominee Tribal Election's final results.

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earn her the second open seat on the Menominee Tribal Legislature. This is 132 additional votes than in the primary, where she received 574 for the second highest vote. The only incumbent who was successful in a bid for re-election was Laurie Boivin who received 692 votes. Boivin, who came in 5th place with 503 votes in the primary election, obtained 189 additional votes, to earn her the 3rd open seat on the Menominee Tribal Legislature. Incumbent, Laurie Reiter received 644 votes, 136 more votes than in the primary, although, was unsuccessful in her bid for re-election. Incumbent and current Menominee Tribal Chairman, Michael Chapman also fell short in his bid for re-election. In the final election, he received 637 votes, 66 additional votes than in the primaries when he received 571. During the primary election, Candidate Gene Caldwell obtained 479 votes. In the final election he obtained an additional 143 votes for a total of 622.

Washinawatok, Delabreau and Boivin will be sworn into office on Thursday, February 9, 2006 and will each serve a three year term on the Menominee Tribal Legislature. Their terms will expire in 2009. The newly elected officials will join Stephanie Awonohopay, Gary Besaw, Kenneth "Bum Bum" Fish, Annmarie Johnson, Theodore Warrington and Karen Washinawatok to form the new Legislative body. Legislators whose terms will expire in 2007 are Stephanie

Awonohopay, Annmarie Johnson and Theodore Warrington.

In the race for Menominee Tribal Chief of Police, Mark Waukau Sr. was victorious in his bid for re-election to the top law enforcement position. Incumbent Mark Waukau Sr. succeeded his opponent by 155 votes. Waukau obtained 835 votes, while his challenger Robert Webster received 680 votes. Waukau was elected as Police Chief in a special election held in January 2005, during which he received 720 votes. He was elected to fill the vacant term that expired in February 2006. He chose to run for re-election for a three year term last fall. In the primary election held in November 2005 there were five candidates vying for the top law enforcement position, only the top two advances to the finals. Waukau was the top vote getter with 682 votes and Robert Webster received 522, advancing them to the finals. In this year's final elections, Waukau gained an additional 153 votes and Webster obtained an additional 158 votes in comparison to the primary elections.

Mark Waukau Sr. will be sworn in as Menominee Tribal Chief of Police on February 9, 2006. He will serve a three year term, which expires in February 2009.

The Menominee Tribal Election Commission certified the official count of the final election held on January 18th & 19th, 2006 as follows:

Menominee Tribal Legislature

Regina Washinawatok	853
Joan Delabreau	706
Laurie Boivin	692
Laurie Reiter	644
Michael Chapman	637
Eugene Caldwell	622

Menominee Tribal Chief of Police

Mark Waukau Sr.	835
Robert Webster	680

Merely 25% of the tribal membership who were eligible to vote exercised their right to do so. Of the 6,336 eligible voters, only 1,623 tribal members voted during the final elections- 87 more than the primary held last fall. 225 people cast their vote at the Neopit Fire Station on January 18, 2006 and 562 ballots were cast at the Gordon Dickie Building in Keshena on January 19, 2006. The majority of voters choose to vote by absentee ballots. 1,180 absentee ballots were requested, however, only 836 were returned.

The Re-organizational meeting (swearing-in) will be held in the Ada Deer/Black Hawk Rooms at the Menominee Casino-Bingo-Hotel on Thursday, February 9, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting, Chief Justice Robert Kittecon will administer the Oath of Office to the newly elected legislators and the Chief of Police. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, as well as the Chairman's salary will be decided at that time. The meeting is open to the public and tribal attendance is encouraged.

CMN continued from front page

Other CMN articulation agreements are: Natural Resources (UW-Stevens Point), Criminal Justice (Fox Valley Tech), and Sustainable Development (UW-Madison). Articulation agreements not only help educate CMN students beyond an associated degree, it also helps the member schools fill their diversity quotas. It's a beneficial agreement all the way around.

Dr. Donna Powless of CMN says of articulation, "It's about working together to produce the best programs for students. CMN is committed to helping students reach academic excellence." Currently, CMN's retention rate is 86%.

Student services include: Career Counseling Services, Tutoring, Disability Services, Student Government, Youth Options, Education & Outreach, Academic Advising, Student Support Services and Financial Aid.

Currently, CMN is in the process of improving sciences in order to better prepare students for lab work. Additional math courses for students of Education are also being developed to help prepare students.

How did CMN get to this point of articulation agreements? History is important in understanding the present and in preparing for the future. The following is information regarding CMN's history.

On September 9, 1992 the Menominee Tribe recruited Dr. Verna Fowler, Tribal member with her doctrine in Higher Education Administration, to found a college for the Menominee People and their neighbors. The first day of classes occurred on January 19, 1993. On March 4, 1993 MTL passed an ordinance that established CMN as an institution of higher education, dedicated to serving "the Menominee people, other Tribal people, and the world at large."

College of Menominee Nation accreditation began in 1993. On October 4, 1993 the CMN Board of Directors approved CMN's affiliation with the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools, Commission of Institutions of Higher Education.

In February of 1995 CMN prepared a Self-Study Report and applied for accreditation Candidacy Status, a status which was granted to CMN one year later. The Self-Study process allowed CMN to re-organize, develop and define CMN objectives, practices and philosophy. This led CMN to initiate an Achievement of Student Learning Assessment Plan.

CMN Board of Directors, in December 1996, determined they would advance from Candidacy Status and seek Initial Accreditation. Also in 1996, the Menominee people initiated a revised Charter of the College of Menominee Nation, through their constitutional powers to enact law via referendum.

On October 3, 1996 MTL unanimously adopted this charter which reads, "the College of the Menominee Nation shall continue to be a college....at the will of the people of the Menominee Tribe."

A Consultant-Evaluator Team visited CMN in February 1998 to review CMN's Self-Study Report, documents, main campus, and auxiliary sites. The team recommended that NCA grant CMN Initial accreditation. NCA approved this recommendation and moved to award CMN Initial Accreditation in 1998.

The current status of College of Menominee Nation and its history certainly shows CMN has made great strides in the development of a creditable institution of higher learning in a short period of thirteen years.

CMN emphasizes that it is open to all, meaning it provides an atmosphere that welcomes all walks of life. Students at CMN are 77% female and 23% male. 85% of the student body is Native American (Menominee 53%, Oneida 34%, Mohican 4% and Other Tribes 9%). 13% of students are White/Non-Hispanic and 2% of students are Hispanic, non disclose. The age of CMN students ranges from 15 to 64.

College of Menominee Nation is taking steps toward becoming a four year academic institution. In February of 2006 CMN will hold a Grand Opening for a new addition that will be comprised of classroom space, office space, lounge areas and conference space.

Seven goals for CMN's future have been laid out in the Annual Report, as of July, 2005:

- Goal 1: Review and revise the current organizational structure of CMN;
- Goal 2: Review and revise the academic programs of the College of Menominee Nation to provide all students with quality educational programming;
- Goal 3: Provide programs and services to enhance the knowledge and skills of the people on the Menominee Indian Reservation and in surrounding communities in support of lifelong learning through continued education;
- Goal 4: Provide a learning environment and support services which prepares students at four year colleges and in their current career choices;
- Goal 5: Achieve fiscal sustainability of the College of Menominee Nation;
- Goal 6: Pursue research and development activities that respond to the needs of the Menominee people and the sustainability of the College of Menominee Nation;
- Goal 7: Provide professional development opportunities for the College of Menominee Nation personnel including administration, staff and faculty so that they can integrate new knowledge and skills into their daily job performance; &
- Goal 8: Serve as a Repository for Knowledge of the Menominee Culture and of the Traditional Cultures of the Satellite Communities.

CMN would like to emphasize to the community that the Cultural Learning Center is open to Tribal agencies who want to use the space for community meetings, workshops and other programming. The Candidate's Forum and the Menominee Language Emerson Camp gathering in December are prime examples of this use.

"Here at the College of Menominee Nation we want to emphasize community," said Dr. Powless. CMN is open to all on its Keshena Campus and Green Bay Campus. Diversity is very important to the process of lifelong learning.

In closing, CMN would like to remind prospective students, those who are thinking about attending CMN, to fill out their application for Financial Aid as soon as possible, regardless of whether prospective students have made a final decision to attend CMN. Financial Aid is established on a first come, first serve basis and proves beneficial to those who do attend.

CMN is Open to All!